

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06214 021039Z

12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 DPW-01 RSR-01 /121 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 298

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.

9. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFORN PK IN BG

SUBJ: INDIA/PAK TALKS: GOP REFUTES CRITICISM OF INDIA.

REF: ISLAMABAD 6138

SUMMARY: LEAD ARTICLE BY FREQUENT REGIME SPOKESMAN
IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAPER SHARPLY CRITICIZED
INDIAN NEGOTIATING TACTICS AT JUST-CONCLUDED RAWALPINDI
TALKS, BLAMED INDIA FOR CREATING DEADLOCK AND BLUNTLY
TERMED INDIAN DELEGATION HEAD HAKSAR A LIAR. FOLLOWING
DAY GOP MINISTER OF STATE PUBLICLY REFUTED CRITICISM,
SPECIFICALLY ABSOLVING INDIA AND HAKSAR OF CHARGES.
END SUMMARY:

1. FRONT PAGE LEAD ARTICLE BY SENIOR CORRESPONDENT AND
REQUENT REGIME SPOKESMAN H.K. BURKI IN AUGUST 1
GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAKISTAN TIMES BITTERLY CRITICIZED
INDIAN NEGOTIATING TACTICS AT RAWALPINDI TALKS AND
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 06214 021039Z

ACCUSED INDIAN CHIEF DELEGATE HAKSAR OF DELIBERATE FALSEHOOD.

2. BURKI CHARGED THAT TALKS HAD FAILED TO YIELD POSITIVE RESULTS ONLY BECAUSE HAKSAR AT LAST MINUTE HAD INTRODUCED TWO ISSUES WHICH WENT BEYOND AGREED SCOPE OF TALKS -- BANGLADESH RECOGNITION AND ADMISSION TO UN. HE NOTED THAT HAKSAR, IN COMMENTS TO PRESS, HAD DENIED RAISING ISSUES BEYOND SCOPE OF APRIL 17 DELHI DECLARATION BUT CHARGED THAT IT WAS OBVIOUS HAKSAR WAS "NOT SPEAKING THE TRUTH". IF ONE IS TO BELIEVE HAKSAR, BURKI ASSERTED, ONE WOULD HAVE TO BELIEVE "PATENTLY ABSURD" STORY THAT PAKISTAN ITSELF RAISED THESE ISSUES.

3. CONTINUING, BURKI SPECULATED WHY INDIANS HAD UNDERMINED TALKS AT LAST MINUTE AND CAME UP WITH CONCLUSION THAT SHEIKH MUJIB WAS PROBABLY TO BLAME ALTHOUGH "THE INDIANS THEMSELVES ARE QUITE CAPABLE OF BACKTRACING". PAKISTAN COULD ACCEPT SUCH "LUDICROUS PROPOSALS" AS THOSE PUT FORTH BY HAKSAR ONLY IF IT WISHED BETRAY ITS PRINCIPLES AND ITS FRIENDS IN UN, BURKI CONCLUDED.

4. AFTER APPEARANCE OF FOREGOING ARTICLE, MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AZIZ AHMED ISSUED STATEMENT AUGUST 1 SPECIFICALLY REFUTING IT.

5. IN HIS STATEMENT, AHMED NOTED THAT HE HAD REFRAINED FROM PUBLIC COMMENT DURING TALKS WITH INDIANS BECAUSE ISSUES INVOLVED WERE SO VITAL. REPORT BY PAKISTAN TIMES CORRESPONDENT, HOWEVER, REQUIRED "IMMEDIATE CLARIFICATION". CORRESPONDENT'S CHARGE THAT HAKSAR HAD INTRODUCED NEW ISSUES DURING FINAL STAGE OF TALKS AND HAD THEN DENIED DOING SO WAS "A MISSTATEMENT OF FACTS".

6. SUBJECTS CITED BY CORRESPONDENT, AHMED SAID, WERE NOT INTRODUCED BY HAKSAR BUT CAME UP "AUTOMATICALLY" IN TALKS WHEN BOTH SIDES TURNED FROM DISCUSSION HUMANITARIAN ISSUES TO LARGER SUBJECT OF PROMOTING SUBCONTINENT RECONCILIATION. "IT WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD ON BOTH SIDES" THAT LATTER ISSUES SHOULD NOT BE LINKED WITH THOSE SPECIFIED IN DELHI DECLARATION, WHICH IN FACT SPECIFICALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 06214 021039Z

DELINKED THEM. CONCLUDING, AHMED EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE TWO SETS OF ISSUES WOULD REMAIN DELINKED.

7. COMMENT: EMBASSY CANNOT RECALL ANOTHER RECENT INSTANCE IN WHICH BURKI STORY HAS BEEN SO PROMPTLY AND SPECIFICALLY REFUTED BY GOP AT HIGH LEVEL. AZIZ AHMED'S STATEMENT OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED REASSURE GOI THAT BURKI (WHO IS

OFTEN USED TO CONVEY VIEWS GOP LEADERSHIP) WAS NOT
SPEAKING FOR GOP IN THIS CASE BUT WAS IN FACT EXPRESSING
OPINION DIRECTLY CONTRARY TO THAT OF GOP.
SOBER

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